(Boston, 21 Cornhill)
July 21. 1854.

Dear Friend Webb—

Yours of May 31., enclosing a brief account with me (which shows a balance in your fav. of $42.52) came duly to hand. You say that there is a discrepance of $3. between the amount which I did pay to Wallcut for Libr. (as per your acct of Dec. 16. 1853) & that which I should have paid; & you append your list of the amts. due Libr. on that account, which sum up. $27.96. I had paid Wallcut $30.96. On comparing your acct. with mine, I readily detect the mistake; in addition to the several payments mentioned by you, I have also the name of Mr. Cotterell of Bath, for 12/6 - or $3.

This payment was included in your account of Dec. 16. 1853, (along with the others which I was to pay to Wallcut), without any particular intimation that it was the same payment which you had notified me of in the August preceding, & requested me then to pay to Wallcut, which I did. It therefore appears that Mr. Cotterell's payment has been paid twice over by me — once on the 26 aug. '53; & again on the 24. Feb. '54. But, the first time, I paid only $2.50; why so, I cannot now explain, as your letters are filed away at Leicester. But I will look at them, before

I send this. – On Mr. Wallcut's books, Mr. Cotterell is now credited with payment to the 1st of Jan. 1855. It strikes me, therefore, it would be better (if convenient) that Mr. C. should pay you the £3. additional, rather than that Wallcut should refund it, to be sent back to Ireland, only to be sent here again bye bye. – Of course, if Mr. C. declines payment, you shall not be the loser. Please "make a note" of this.

I prefer to send you the balance, as it stands by your account; & shall therefore buy you a bill of exchange, – the most I can get for $42.52; which will not be far from £8.10.0 [P.S. – Enclosed, find bill for £8.10.1]

Leicester, July 30. – I have found your note of aug. 5. 1853, in which you request me to make a payment for Mr. Cotterell, of Bath. The words are, – "Will you please also to send the Liberator to Mr. Cotterell of Bath. This I ask you to do by Miss Estlin's desire. She sent me the money, which I will give you credit for." This is all that is said on the subject. No particular sum is mentioned as received by you, and I accordingly paid Wallcut the usual subscription, $2.50. So that is all cleared up.

I don't know but you may think we ought to have more subscribers to the "Advocate" here. It is not owing to any fault in the paper,

He is singularly constituted in this respect.

certainly, that its circulation here is not larger. All who see it like it very much, & value it highly. But the demand on our antislavery folks, to uphold the various A.S. paper here, is so urgent, that I do not feel like pressing any foreign paper upon them. — Let me add, we not only like, — we love the little "Advocate". It is so neat and trig a craft, — as well as so staunch and steady, — to say nothing of the experience and fidelity of its commander & crew, that we joyfully embark with it, & take a new pleasure with every new voyage.

I am sure you will be gratified with the renovated appearance of the "Standard". Externally it is, perhaps, all we can wish; certainly all that we can expect. Unfortunately, Lyon's eldest child has been very sick, with dysentery, the past 2 weeks, which has thrown the entire labors of getting out the 2 "new" papers on Alden Johnson*. The leading editorial in the paper of yesterday (July 29) is by Mr. Talbot of Maine; a lawyer & man of great ability & worth — so esteemed; personally, I am not acquainted with him —

* Any enemy of this Lyon family denies him nearly every constitutional right in this respect.

Leicester, Friday Aug. 4. This is a piece-meal letter, and, as it could not well be avoided, I doubt not you will excuse it. I returned from Boston last night, completely worn out with four days' pretty hard work — in extremely hot weather — during which time I could not find the spare hour or two to complete this letter to you;

and I greatly fear it will go off now, in a very unfinished state. But as I have got the bill of exchange, I will have no further delay about sending, — Of course I have no funds of yours now in my hands, this bill ~~also~~ taking all I had of yours, which according to my account was a trifle over $35, and Mr. Jackson (Treas^r of Am^n Society) advancing the rest. — On receiving to your account (sent in your letter of May 31. last) I find that you have rec^d $3. for Standard, from the Ladies' A.S. Society of Dublin (April 7, 1854). I have right to have taken out from Mr. Jackson to enable me to pay this in order to have ~~your~~ our accounts stand exactly square. This I will attend to, and we may consider ourselves as taking a new start, financially, from this present. I shall hereafter enter each separate item of money paid on your account; indeed I have always kept a Memorandum of the same, but shall now include it in the account. — Hereafter I think you had better keep in your hands any balance there is in your favour, — unless, of which there is no probability, it should be a very large one; — as you will be more likely to need the money than we shall here, as you will ~~have~~ incur some considerable expenses ~~to incur~~ from time to time on our account. If also, you could name, in the case of individuals paying you for papers here, the time for which the payment is made, it would be a help to me. But don't take trouble for that, as the date (which you send) of receiving the money will generally serve to indicate the term of the payment sufficiently. — I shall be glad to hear of the safe arrival of the Bill of Exchange,

L2d'S in 9/18 SW

I have also to acknowledge a few ~~brief~~ lines from you, dated June 16, - rec^d. July 14. -

I am exceedingly sorry that Pillsbury is yet hampered, - & likely to be for some time, I fear, - by the difficulty in his side, &c. Does he confer at all with the physicians who had the care of him in Bristol? As they got a thorough idea - it is to be presumed - of his case, would they not be his best advisers? — I would not have him undertake any work, large or small, for which his strength is not adequate; yet I am very desirous that he should have good health & strength enough to go into Scotland, and especially to Edinburgh & Glasgow. In both those places, are Abolitionists (so-called) - and more feeling against Slavery & its abominations I do not question at all - who are of the narrowest Sort; some bigoted & sour, - others timid, frightened, themselves slaves to some sectarian idea, & wholly non-intelligent of that kind of "liberty wherewith Christ makes free". In Christ's name, they exclude such men as Pillsbury (and you & me, also; ~~of course~~ perhaps) from their regard, and sympathies. They speak of him as ~~the~~ an enemy to Christianity, and as casting away, and as endeavoring to persuade others to cast away, the sure ~~grounds~~ hopes which God has graciously given us, for ourselves and for others, in the gospel; and as striving to undermine the only sure foundation of human welfare in time and eternity. I greatly want, therefore, to

have him show himself among those people; if possible, to see them; at any rate to see those, whose report of him will reach the ears of those who are so terribly alarmed lest, in overturning slavery, & prejudice, and every other conceivable villainy, we should overturn God also, and the Kingdom of Heaven! Alas! what short-sightedness! what a singular mental state is that, how cramped by creeds, and bound by sectarian prejudices, which cannot discern when Christ's work is being done, and who is doing it, - or the devil's, & who is doing that! and who will really associate themselves, oftentimes, with the latter company, only because they continue to keep an outside show of sanctity, while dishonouring and denying Christ every hour of their lives. Well! there are all sorts of people, and the most of them will "gang their ain gate", in spite of remonstrances, & the clearest demonstration of their error. Those who are too fearful & timid to assert and maintain their own freedom are not the stuff to make weapons of to free others. The Anti-slavery cause needs men and women, who, while they shall be reverent of the highest & purest principles, loyal to the great idea of Duty, obedient to the Law of the Most High God,

shall also be free of every man-made &
man-imposed yoke, - who shall be ready
to withstand Churches, & parties, and a world
in league against the Right, and who will
heed the outcries and denunciations of such no
more than they do the idle wind. - Pillsbury
I consider an eminent specimen of this sort
of a Free Man; and, as such, I think him
capable of exerting a most needful and most
salutary influence, wherever he is understood.
There will be some, I fear, always, who cannot
understand him - who are so constituted as to
be unable to study & appreciate such a
character. There will also be those who
will not understand him, who do not want
to understand him, & will take no pains for it.
These can be met, by being shamed in their
bigotry & actual dishonesty by the testimony
of others of acknowledged worth & mental clearness.
I am free to say that I have sometimes
thought that P.P. did not take quite the
pains he should to be understood - rather, not
to be misunderstood; - but, in this, I may
have been mistaken. - There is, too, a sound
philosophy in leaving people something to chew upon
something that they don't understand clearly at once,

—But, again, I do regard it as of the first importance that people be not needlessly left in the dark as to whether we are, or are not, reverent of the Authority & Law of the great Creator & Lawgiver. Some of our friends Speakers — as H.C. Wright for example — do use very impulsive phrases & expressions; so that I think it the most natural thing, & even unavoidable, that people, who do not personally know them, should imagine them to be open scoffers. —

The first of August ~~this~~ had three celebrations, at least, in this country. I had the pleasure of being at one, and I have heard from another, & confidently expect a good report from the third. The meeting at the Abington Grove, in Plymouth County in ~~that~~ this State, was declared on all hands to be one of the very best meetings ever held by the Massachusetts Antislavery Society. There was a grand attendance of the very flower of Massachusetts Antislavery; the day was bright and beautiful, — the temperature of the air very comfortable; the spirit of the speeches was animated, courageous, hopeful; and the sentiment of the vast audience perfectly unanimous. A spirit is rising & growing in our Northern people which will resist, — and that ere long, — the

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despotism of the National Government, and will defy its Slaveholding laws, and trample them under foot. Another celebration was held at Hopedale, in Worcester County. That was addressed by numerous able speakers, and attended by some two thousand people, - the greatest interest being manifest through the entire day. The "Standard" + "Liberator" will give you full accounts. Among the speakers at Hopedale, were Rev. Thomas W. Higginson of Worcester, (who is under arrest for endeavoring to take Anthony Burns from the Boston Court house on the night of May 26th), Rev. Caleb Stetson of Scituate, Wendell Phillips, Chas. L. Remond, Rev. Mr. Dall of Canada, and Mr. Garrison, who gave a very interesting historical account of the efforts which led to British West Indian Emancipation. The singing by the great audience was a very pleasing feature. - At Hopedale the principal speakers were Adin Ballou, Charles C. Burleigh, Henry C. Wright, Rev. Mr. Hayden of Meudon (an Englishman by birth), & Rev. J. T. Woodbury of Milford. - The other celebration was at Flushing, near Newyork, under the auspices of the N. Y. City Anti Slavery Society. Horace Greeley Esq, Editor of the N. Y. Tribune

and Rev. Samuel Joseph May, of Syracuse, N.Y, were to be among their speakers.

Here I am obliged to stop. Hoping soon to hear from you, I am

Most respectfully & affectionately

Yours Samuel May Jr

Congress is about to adjourn; and the President has asked for Ten Millions of Dollars to make a war with Spain, for Cuba, if he can continue a pretext for the same. That there will be no difficulty in picking a quarrel, we may be very certain. I send you a little slip, showing that measures are in train for a treaty of amity, or something of the sort, between the United States & Russia!

Russia will keep England & France busy, while the U. States rifle Spain of Cuba. This is evidently the meaning. In return this slaveholding Govt. will help the Czar in some way, — perhaps by a loan of money!

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